

THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN
WILLIAM HENRY EDWARDS AND
SPENCER FULLERTON BAIRD

PART IV

1867-1868

ANNOTATED BY F. MARTIN BROWN¹

Sometime during October, or probably November, 1866 Edwards' fifth paper describing new species was published. This was "Descriptions of certain species of DIURNAL LEPIDOPTERA from within the limits of the United States and British America. No. 5". It appeared in the October, 1866, issue of the Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Philadelphia on pages 200 through 208. In it he described as new eight species and at the very end listed thirteen species he had received from Arizona. This material from Arizona had reached Edwards through Baird and had been collected by naturalists attached to Army units in the state. The source can be traced in the Annual Report for 1866, p. 46, where, among others assigned to Edwards for study, are noted "Lepidoptera collected . . . by Drs Coues & Palmer in Arizona." Palmer was the entomological collector of this team. The collections were made in the vicinity of Fort Whipple, near Prescott. [For Elliot Coues, (1842-1899) see Hume, 1942, pp. 52-89; for Edward Palmer, (1821-1911) see Popular Science Monthly, 78; 341-354, 1911.]

8878

[Rcd Dec 4 1866]

282

Newburgh, N. Y.

2 Dec 1866

Prof. Baird

Washn.

Dear Sir

I reached home from West Va. last eveg. I found the box from Sumi-

¹ With the agreement of Mr. F. Martin Brown, the editor assumes responsibility for the modification of Mr. Brown's article. Certain letters have been omitted, others have been extensively edited. A considerable portion of Mr. Brown's annotation has also been deleted. The *Journal* has now published all parts of this article submitted before 1960.—W.S.C.

chrest here, and have just gone over its contents. It is not worth while for him to send me any more insects so miserably put up, and of such common species. I enclose / one of the Sphinges as a sample of the whole (20 or so in all.) Not a decent one among them. There were about 80 butterflies, nearly all yellow ones, which are the commonest of the order. Some of the butterflies are in good order. But not one of the Sphinges. Mr. S. ought to know how to protect his collections by camphor or similar means. But he uses nothing. I had offered a large price for good Sphinges & several of us counted on getting a valuable set from him this season. It would be better for the Sphinges to be pinned & spread, if he could also guard the bodies by pins from danger of being shaken off. The butterflies may do well in papers. I will do what I can with these things. But I want no more unless he can send in good / condition.

I sent you the money for the first lot just as I went West, in Oct.

I have a letter from Bernard Ross, at Rupert Fort,¹³¹ saying that if I will send you nets etc he will collect for me next year. Also that he has some now which he will send to me through you. What books can I send to Mrs. Ross that would be of interest to her?

Yours truly
W. H. Edwards

8925?

[Recd. Dec. 11, 1866]

Newburgh, New York
10 Dec. 1866

Prof. S. F. Baird
Washn.

Dear Sir.

Your two letters of 4th & 6th are duly recd. I return the German letter. I do not know any one who wishes European butterflies.

I will send a box to you for Ross in a few days, so soon as I can get together the articles for him.

I find the greatest difficulty in getting the / figures drawn of my butterflies (on stone). I have had four plates made, but 2 are imperfect and will have to be done over again. The artists do not understand *drawing for coloring*, which is quite different from drawing where no color is to be applied. I have found a good colorist in Mrs. H. P. Gray, wife of the artist,¹³² in New York. Except for the difficulty named, I should have issued No. 1, 5 plates of the Argynnides before this.¹³³ I have half a mind to send the insects to Robinson¹³⁴ of London, the B [ritish] Mu-/ seum

¹³¹ Rupert House is on the east shore of Rupert Bay on the south side of the mouth of Rupert River, 51° 29' N. Lat., 78° 46' W. Long. in the province of Quebec. It has long been a headquarters for the Hudsons Bay Company in the Hudsons Bay region.

¹³² Henry Peters Gray (1819–1877): (National Academy 1842, president 1869)

¹³³ The first fascicle ultimately was issued in June 1868.

¹³⁴ Edward William Robinson (1835–1877): steel-engraver and artist,

artist. He works for 5 shillings per figure, & does his work well.

Yours truly
W. H. Edwards

12163 ?

418

Washington Dec. 11, 1866

My Dear Mr Edwards,

I have yours with samples of plates. I wish you could find the right man to draw. Why not try Richards, our former artist. He would do the work much better and is one of the best colorists in the country. His address is J. H. Richards, Fall of Schuylkill, Phila.

Yours truly
Spencer F. Baird

W. H. Edwards
Newburgh.

89—

[Red Dec 14, 1866]

284

Newburgh, New York
Dec. 14, 1866

Prof. Baird.

Dear Sir.

I will communicate with the artist at Schuylkill. Much obliged to you.

Will you give me an opinion upon the following case, from the usual procedure among ornithologists & Mammalogists.

Perhaps you recollect *Lycaena Comyntas*, a small purplish butterfly abounding in the north. It expands 1 in. Wherever we find that we find a minute species, expandg 7/10 inch (the smallest *Lycaena* known) marked precisely like it, & of same color. Dr. Harris¹³⁵ had a mind to call the little one a species. The other day I met J. P. Giraud¹³⁶ on the cars, & talking / over various matters with him I spoke of this case. He said that Ornithologists would of course, make the smaller a distinct species, & mentioned "the lesser Tern", and "the lesser Marmot" in Mammalia.

What say you? If you say make a distinct species, give me one or two examples among Birds so that when I describe it I may refer intelligently to them.

Do you know whether the common field mouse makes any noise? I have

often employed by the British Museum (N. H.). Obituary in *Ent. Mo. Mag.* 14: 118-119. 1877.

¹³⁵ Edwards Doubleday Harris (1839-1919), an entomological enthusiast living in the New York area. (See Carpenter, 1945, pp. 42-43.)

¹³⁶ Jacob P———. Giraud (—): A New Yorker who had collected birds in Texas in 1838. He was an early (1844) member of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York, the forerunner of the American Museum of Natural History.

a singing mouse in a cage, caught in a trap in my bed room. It makes a noise, sometimes like a cricket (somewhat) & sometimes like bubbling of water. Have had him two months, when he sings his throat moves like a bird's. He has a / more pointed nose than a house mouse, & is lightest on the belly. I have in mind to send it to you alive. Before I caught it, it would keep me awake for an hour together by its stridulous noise. In the cage he may sing occasionally. But when he is able to get out of the cage & run about the room, he sings all the time.

Yours truly
W. H. Edwards.

12235

444

Wash. Dec. 15, 1866

My Dear Mr. Edwards,

I would not call the small *Lycaena* a new species. I would call it *var.* "nana" or something of that kind so that if the specific value should at any time be established this *var.* name might be taken up. If absolutely similar except for size it would be rather difficult to establish a species.

Perhaps your mouse is a Dear Mouse or White-footed Mouse. The field mice proper all have very blunt noses.

W. H. Edwards
Newburgh.

Sincerely yours
S. F. Baird

9000

285

Prof. S. F. Baird

Newburgh, New York
22 Dec 1866

Smithsonian Ins.
Washn. D. C.

Dear Sir

I send today by express a package addressed "Smithsonian Ins." Under the outer wrapper, it is addressed "Bernard R. Ross" etc. It contains cork, pins, rings & netting & poison, & some of my published plates. The direction on the package is from his own letter. I should infer from his letter to me of 12 Aug. that he wd collect a little this summer, & send me the results thru' you.

I fear I have lost the mouse. He got out of the cage and has sung no more that I have heard.

Truly yours
W. H. Edwards

[Recd Feb. 7, 1867]
212

Newburgh, New York
5 Feby, 1867

Prof. Baird
Smithsonian
Washn.

Dear Sir.

I wrote Francis Walker to learn what the artist of the B. [ritish] Museum

wd draw on stone my Argynnides for. He replies for 70 or 100¹³⁷ per figure & will furnish one colored copy. He does his work well, as we know by 3 plates of our sphinges. The only doubt I have is any to his damaging my specimens. I should be sorry to / send those fine things over there & have them come back ruined. If I have him draw the figures, I will have a certain no. struck off there, say 250 to 500, as I dare venture.

Yours truly

W. H. Edwards

Do you get no butterflies from the far West now-a-day?

[Red May 7, 1867]

213

Coalburgh, Kanawha Co.

West Virginia

3rd May, 1867

Prof. S. F. Baird

Smithsonian

Washington.

Dear Sir

I should have sent you Ten Dollars which I received for Sumichrast's insects last winter, before I left New York. But it escaped me and I now enclose same. The insects were in miserable condition and, as I thought, worth nothing, but I sold the lot for Ten Dollars.

I have been kept out here longer than usual and am likely to remain most of the season. Have already taken a great many butterflies the last month.

If there is any chance to secure me any butterflies from Russian America¹³⁸ or the Rocky Mtns. dont forget me.

I expect through you the insects promised by Ross this season.

Yours truly

W. H. Edwards

I have lately had a handsome plate of Argynnis Diana ♂ ♀, four figures on one plate, by Weist [sic]¹³⁹ of Phila.

But this is the / last he can make this year he says.

¹³⁷ The artist in question is Robinson (see note 134). The price quoted is in cents (gold) and more reasonable than Edwards was able to find in this country.

¹³⁸ See note 113. The American group was operating in Russian America under the scientific leadership of Robert Kennicott. Upon his death the leadership was transfered to William Healey Dall (1845-1927) (DAB 5: 35-36, 1930). The materials collected were shipped to the Smithsonian as a depository. Ownership was retained in them by the Expedition and the final disposition up to Kennicott. Most of the material collected went to Chicago and was destroyed by fire.

¹³⁹ D.— Wiest: lithographer, living in the Philadelphia area who took over the task of preparing the stones for Edwards' plates. He was succeeded by an anonymous artist working for Cassin in the Bowen plant.

13667

Washington, May 7, 67

Dear Mr. Edwards

I have yours with 10.00 for Summichrast [sic].

We have a very large collection of handsome butterflies from Bogota just brought by our late Minister. At least a pack of papers enclosing specimens and apparently in good condition. We are to have a series ourselves and distribute a few sets: the rest to be returned named. Do you want to take and name, for a series ? and when.

Yours truly
S. F. Baird

W. H. Edwards
Coalburgh, Kanawha Co.
Va.

[Red. June 3 1867]

Phila. Sundry. 2 June 67

Prof. Baird
Smithsonian
Dear Sir.

I found I could not go on to Washington without losing tomorrow as well as today, and I have not the time, which I regret much. My family have just returned from St. Augustine from 3 months absence, & are waiting impatiently my arrival in New York. If possible I will come & see you yet before I go back to Kanawha, 1 July. You may send the butterflies to me at 40 Wall & I will have / them duly attended to & returned according to instructions.

I learn here that an expedition is started for the far West, in which the Smithsonian are [sic] interested.¹⁴⁰ I hope you will reserve me some of the Butterflies from that source.

I find that the artist, who drew my 3 plates of *Argynnis*, is willing to go ahead, and I will therefore have 2 more drawn and issue as soon thereafter as / I can get the first number of 5 plates of the work. Hope I can accomplish it this year, and initiate a creditable work.

My address will be 40 Wall, N. Y. I dont know that I will be at Newburgh this season.

Yours truly
W. H. Edwards

Most of the plates prepared by Wiest were later redrawn by Mrs. Mary Pert. The only ones remaining in the final edition of the first part of Edwards' Butterflies of North America are those for *Argynnis cybele* and *Argynnis aphrodite*. Only the plate of *Argynnis atlantis* survived of those done by Cassin's man. The plate of *Argynnis diana* noted here was withdrawn after publication and replaced by one done by Mrs. Pert. An earlier plate of *diana* is noted in footnote 108.

¹⁴⁰ This was Clarence King's expedition to make a geological survey along the 40th parallel. The naturalist for the party was Robert Ridgeway.

14077

281

Washington, June 3 1867

My Dear Mr Edwards,

The butterflies went yesterday. They were collected by Hon. A. A. Burton, U. S. Minister to Colombia, principally about Bogota. Some from the Magdalena River.

The specimens are Mr. Burton's. He however gives us a series (which please keep for us) and wants a private series selected and named for himself. If series can be supplied with advantage to any public Museums, especially Chicago, he wishes to do so. Any residuum after / these selections he wishes to use as presents to personal friends.

Of course you will have a series for your labor. Mr. Burton might be friendly, I suppose, to suggestion that you will select a series for us to send Mr. Osbert Salvin.

As for selections, I suppose the great bulk will consist of a few species. Where I had each in a separate box each paper numbered. Number to correspond to names of them on a list.

I will do what I can to get what you want of NW specimens.

Truly yours

S. F. Baird

W. H. Edwards

40 Wall St.

N. Y.

10344

[Red. June 12, 1867]

Newburgh, New York

10 June 67

Prof. Baird

Smithsonian

Washington

Dear Sir.

The contents of the package astonished me. On opening the tin box and looking over the papers, I should say there were nearly a bushel of same, and at least 2000 to 3000 specimens. I wish I had time to attend to the naming & distribution of them, but, with my press of business, it is impossible. I did not imagine the undertaking to be of such magnitude. So far as I opened the papers the specimens are good ones, and well put up. I saw no sign of dermestes. There are evidently many duplicates.

The only man who can name these things is Mr. Reakirt¹⁴¹ of Phila. if he has the time to apply to it. If it is agreeable to you I will send them to him with your instructions. I will wait to hear from you in reply / before doing anything about it.

¹⁴¹ Tryon Reakirt (-): merchant and avocational entomologist, who was living in Philadelphia at the time of this letter and later in Wilmington, Delaware. Some time before 1878, Ferdinand Heinrich Herman Strecker (1836-1901) purchased Reakirt's butterflies. They now are with the Strecker Collection at the Chicago Museum of Natural History.

I have Glover's¹⁴² plates, just sent by him & am much pleased with them. If he lives long enough to make a tolerably complete collection of figures, it will be very valuable & immortalize him.

Yours truly
W. H. Edwards

14165

343

Washington, June 12, 1867

Dear Mr. Edwards

It will be perfectly agreeable to us to have Mr. Reakirt name the 'flies. Find whether he would like to do so and we will write him. How about Grote and Robinson of N. Y.

Yours truly
S. F. Baird

W. H. Edwards
N. York

10478

[Recd. June 22, 1867]

217

Newburgh, New York
19 June 1867

Prof. Baird

Washn.

Dear Sir.

I enclose Mr. Reakirt's letter & I will forward the butterflies to him today. You can write him directions. His address is 355 North 3rd St. Phila.

You inquired in your last about Grote & Robinson,¹⁴³ that is as to their knowledge in naming butterflies. Mr. Grote is the active & Robinson the moneyed partner I believe. Mr. G. must be well acquainted with our moths. Quite lately he has turned his attention to / Diurnals, and they have been buying specimens from all countries. But it is not possible that they could have yet attained much knowledge of the Diurnals.

¹⁴² Townsend Glover (1812-1883): entomologist, the first man employed as entomologist by the U. S. Department of Agriculture retiring in 1878. (see DAB 7:333-334.) The plates alluded to here were the first of those issued for what was to be an iconography of American insects. They were printed from copper engravings made by Glover. The work was never completed nor was it published although sets of the plates may be found in a few libraries. In 1877 some of the original plates acted as the drawings upon which were based the lithographic illustrations in Glover's "Manuscript Notes from my Journal or Entomological Index to names, etc, in Agricultural Reports . . ." Transferred to and printed from stone by F. C. Entwisle, Washington, D. C., of which only fifty copies were prepared.

¹⁴³ Coleman Townsend Robinson (1838-1872): stockbroker in New York, who with Grote published numerous papers about lepidoptera, mostly moths. Robinson himself published several papers, mostly devoted to microlepidoptera. (See Carpenter, 1945, p. 86).

Reakirt has a Miscellaneous Collection altogether of Diurnals, & knows more of them than any one we have, that is, foreign species—for I wont allow that any one knows more of U. S. species than myself.

Yours truly
W. H. Edwards

[Recd. Oct. 15, 1867]

[Recd. Oct. 20, 1867]

219

Phila. 13th Oct. 1867

Prof. Baird

Dear Sir.

I am sorry I had not the pleasure of seeing you in New York, but I was in town only during business hours & for two days. I am on my way to Kanawha. I mean to make arrangements for living there with my family after this winter.

I find that I can go ahead with two plates of the Argynnides during this winter. The first 5 will then be complete & I shall take measures to issue the first number as / soon thereafter as I can have the letter press attended to.

I saw Reakirt yesterday. He is working at the Bogota butterflies. Finds several new species, one of which is a large and handsome Papilio.

Yours truly
W. H. Edwards

11435 and 37495

1

[Recd. Dec 14, 1867]

221

Newburgh, N. Y.,
12 Dec. 1867

Prof. Baird.

Washn. D. C.

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 8th was duly recd., and yesterday I got the box from Akhurst. The insects from Sumichrast are in better order than usual. There were 5 or 6 Sphinges and for once they were not eaten up. I will sell the butterflies — 3 or 40 [sic] — & send you for him the proceeds of the whole. There was another box labelled from Monterey—I suppose from Cala—The contents were broken and worthless any how—except one ♀ *Colias*,¹⁴⁴ which singularly enough was the only unbroken specn. What it is I don't yet know, but it looks like a new species. The rest were common—such as *Danais Archippus*, *Melitaea Chalcedon*, etc.

¹⁴⁴ There are two possibilities for this: It may have been what Edwards described as *ariadne* in the *Transactions of the American Entomological Society*, vol. 3, p. 12, 1870; or, it may have been a much more distinctive insect that was named *Colias harfordi* by Henry Edwards in 1877 in the *Proceedings of the California Academy of Natural Sciences*, p. 9. I can find no evidence that Edwards ever used this specimen as the type for a new name.

I don't want the Guatemala butterflies, but perhaps Reakirt will & as I am writing him today will mention the matter.

I expect to sell my place here very shortly & after this to make my headquarters at Coalburgh, Kanawha Co. W. Va. Articles for me will be sent by express to Cinc. & I will give you my address in due time. I shall be here till 25th inst. at any rate.

I believe I have 5 plates¹⁴⁵ of the Argynnides now drawn ready for coloring, and I have nearly prepared the text to accompany them. I propose to put out a number with 5 plates. The size will be that of Hewitson's Exotics, or say Kirby, books which you have. If I can get Weist [*sic*] to proceed with drawing I will put in his hands 5 more. At first I thought I would publish only the Argynnides but as there are several new large species of other genera—*Limenites*, etc, etc,—I intend to publish any thing and let the numbers run along as I have time till I make a volume. Now what shall I call it, "Illustrations of the Butterflies of U. S. & B. Ama." or what? And shall I say anything of the habits, / localities where I am able from personal observation, or confine myself strictly to descn.?

And where 2 sp. have been generally confused, shall I explain at length & rectify the matter, or would this properly come into such a publication as the Phila. Transactions Ent. Soc. & not into such a work as I propose? Give me the benefit of your experience.

I see that I have named more than 70 species¹⁴⁶ U. S. & B. Ama. butterflies & in all probability 150 sps. / have been described since the rush to Califa. in 1849, none of which are anywhere figd. except in the small publications of the Ent. Soc. Phila., & two or three in New York.

I mean to go to the end of the Pacific RR., Colorado, next summer, & from thence will bring back plenty of material.¹⁴⁷

Yours truly
W. H. Edwards

15379

433 & 434

Washington, Dec. 15, 67

My Dear Mr Edwards

I have your letter of 12. and hasten to answer. I was glad to learn that Sumichrast's collection "panned out" better than usual. The Monterey was California, collector, Dr. C. A. Canfield, who should be credited in description.

By all means save for us all good fossils you can raise: we want them very much.

I would publish all the species of butterflies referred to, adding a part time after time as new material comes in. The whole ought to form a good volume.

¹⁴⁵ The five plates figured these species: I *diana*, II *cybele*, III *aphrodite*, IV *nokomis* and V *atlantis*.

¹⁴⁶ By actual count Edwards had described 71 species by December 1867.

¹⁴⁷ Edwards did not make this trip. His only trip into Colorado was made in 1894 when he and David Bruce stayed at Glenowwod Springs, Garfield County. In 1867 "head of rail" was Denver.

As to title:¹⁴⁸ I would say "North America" instead of U. S., British America. One day it will be all United States, and United States will be North America. The Smithsonian version of North America means north of Mexico. "Middle America" is from north line Mexico to Atrato River.¹⁴⁹ Lower California is North America.

LEPIDOPTERA
of
NORTH AMERICA
ILLUSTRATED
By W. H. Edwards
Figures (or Illustrations)
of
North American Lepidoptera

ILLUSTRATIONS
of
LEPIDOPTERA (or Butterflies)
of
NORTH AMERICA

It will make an awkward title to have region take too much space./

I would add all I know as to localities, habits, etc. You will even then hardly have enough text to balance the plates and make a good volume. No more appropriate place. I would also give list of all described N. Am. species of the different genera figured and even Synopsis. All these points add greatly to the value of such works and increase the demand. Make the whole as complete as you can.

You should by all means have a publisher whose imprint may be affixed: as B. Westermanns, & Co. or somebody else: perhaps Hurd & Houghton.¹⁵⁰

Yours truly
S. F. Baird

W. H. Edwards
Newburgh
N. Y.

¹⁴⁸ The title settled upon by Edwards "*The Butterflies of NORTH AMERICA*" seems to have been based upon Baird's third suggestion. In the original letter the words I have capitalized are written in upper and lower case but marked for full capitals.

¹⁴⁹ This division of the Americas into three regions is in essence that accepted today. Biologically North America extends southward and takes in most of Mexico, Middle America now is considered to find its southern boundary in Darien, south of the Panama Canal Zone but not so far south as the Rio Atrato in Colombia.

¹⁵⁰ The second and third volumes and the reprinted text of the first volume of *The Butterflies of North America* were published by Houghton, Mifflin and Company of New York, New York, the work being done at The Riverside Press of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Hurd & Houghton was the forerunner of Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

11582

144

Jan. 11, 1868

Prof. Baird

Washn.

Dear Sir.

I go West next Wedy. & shall be at Coalburgh, Kanawha Co., W. Va.
My express direction will be "Care of J. D. Hunt
36 Walnut St.
Cincinnati."

When Ross's insects come send them on.

I have made full / arrangements for the issue of No. 1 of the "Butterflies of N. Ama." about 1st Apl. & No. 2 3 or 4 months later.¹⁵¹

Instead of giving it to a publishing house I propose to issue it from the Ent. Soc. of Phila.¹⁵² & have the printing done on the premises. Cassin advises me to do so, and it saves me a vast deal of trouble as I can have Cresson attend to printing & all / other matters pertaining to the issue.

Grote reports—after a visit to the Ent. Collections of London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, etc, etc, [-] that our species are not known much, & all Amn. Collections in very bad order. Moreover naturalists there in ignorance of what we are doing all working on same species.

Yours truly

W. H. Edwards

The following undated draft by Baird for a letter to Edwards to be signed by Prof. Henry, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, seems best placed here. There is an hiatus in Baird's letters at this point.

678

Sir,

We beg to enclose herewith sundry Lepidoptera collected by Mr. Robert Ridgeway under command of Mr. Clarence King with the request that you will add them to the others in your charge belonging to this Institution. You are at liberty to describe any new species under the usual conditions of mentioning them as derived and belonging to the Smiths.

¹⁵¹ The first fascicle was issued in June 1868, on or before the 5th of the month.

¹⁵² At the meeting of February 25, 1861, the members of the Philadelphia society accepted the proposal of one of the organizational members, John Meichel, that, if the Society acquired a hand press and type, he would attend to the composition and presswork. Whether or not Meichel was responsible for setting and printing Edwards' first volume I have been unable to learn.

We are about sending to Mr. Reakirt for examination and report a small collection of Lepidoptera of Yucatan.

W. H. Edwards

Coalburgh

Kanawha Co.

Va.

38702

140

Prof. S. F. Baird

Smithsonian, Washn.

Dear Sir.

I recd today a letter from Prof. Henry of 31 Jan. saying that a lot of butterflies had been forwarded. Your hand seems to have addressed a note that they were sent with others from Sumichrast. I hope they were sent to J. D. Hunt, 36 Walnut St., Cinc. (See on this paper above). If so shall soon get them. They were "Collected by Clarence King". Who is he and where are they from?¹⁵³

Yours truly

W. H. Edwards

I have a few dollars for Sumichrast proceeds of last small lot. I sold the butterflies for 10 c gold cash, amt to \$3.60 & will pay for the Sphinges that I kept myself.

11920

[Recd. March 4, 1868]

138

[Coalburgh, W. Va.] 25 Feby, 1868

Prof. Baird, Smithsonian Ins.

Washn.

Dear Sir.

The butterflies from Somichrast [sic] came today from Cinc. They are the best lot I have ever seen from him. There were 8 or 10 only eaten by insects, and throwing them out, there are 158 specimens for which I will duly send you 10 cents ea. in gold. When you write him, tell him to send all of the species of *Thecla* he can find. And tell him to make an effort to collect Sphinges again this season, & when collected to get them here in good condition. If he will use *creosote* or other powerful odor, I think he will save them. He had better put them in paper (although I once sent him word not to) as they break less than when he pins them, and probably are more easily protected against insects.

As to the insects from Califa, which I had expected to be something fine from Prof. Henry's official notice of them and charge to take care of them, they are worthless, all common species & all eaten by insects. I enclose one that you may see & the rest I shall burn up.

You advised me to publish a Synopsis of N. An. species in my Butter-

¹⁵³ Apparently Henry modified the draft letter written by Baird. From Baird's draft we know that the material was collected by Ridgeway.

flies.¹⁵⁴ I can commence this in the 2nd or 3rd number. Should I adopt all of the new genera of Tom, Dick & Harry, or have I discretion to do as I think best about that? Somebody has cut up *Argynnis* and made a new genus *Brenthis* of part of it. Now *Argynnis* was not a crowded genus, and the difference between *Brenthis* and the rest of the genus, is not greater than between what Boisduval calls groups. For instance, there are many groups of *Papilio*, whom no one yet ventures to subdivide, but which could as properly be as *Argynnis*. I detest this genus making, in the spirit in which it is ground out.

Yours truly
W. H. Edwards

3907..

[Red. March 16, 1868]

139

Coalburgh, Kanawha Co.
W. Va. 11 Mar 68

Prof. Baird
Smithsonian Ins.
Washington
Dear Sir.

Yours of 4th just comes to hand. Of course I want you to send me every butterfly, good and bad, that comes along. I usually have not recd letters from Prof. Henry, in form, in the receipt of an invoice, but have once or twice, as on this late occasion, and it gave me the impression that he thought I had heretofore recd & was now receiving insects of value for which I might be called to account some day. I wished to show you in time what sort / of an invoice the present one was. All right, let me have good and bad.

I enclose (or direct our bank at Charleston to) for Sumichrast a draft for \$30.88 with account, & a letter telling what I want.

I am glad you counsel me to use my judgment about admitting new Genera. There is a fashion among German Lepidopterists of magnifying Hubner who made as many genera as species, and as Boisduval shows in the Intro. to Spec. Genl, page 184, in a most ridiculous manner. Some of our writers affect to follow Hubner & the Germans and I dispise the lead.

Yours truly
W. H. Edwards

39864

[Red. May 12, 1869]

135

Coalburgh, Kanawha Co.
West. Va.
4 May 68

Prof. S. F. Baird
Washn.
Dear Sir.

I send you a proof of the first sheet of Part 1 of the Butterflies of. N. A.

¹⁵⁴ This was done and the Synopsis constitutes an addendum to Volume I of "*Butterflies of North America*".

& hope you will be pleased with its appearance.¹⁵⁵ Cassin is doing his best with the plates, & the number will be ready for delivery in a fortnight. I suppose we may reckon the Smithsonian as a subscriber. You will have it in your power to show the work occasionally to gentlemen who desire to encourage the *fine arts*. I / will tell Cresson to send you Part I for yourself. Note the woodcut of a fossil butterfly similar to *Diana*.¹⁵⁶

I wish we might hear from Ross. If you write him this year, urge him to do what he can for us. I will have all my numbers sent to him as they appear. I rely on him for several new species.

Yours truly
W. H. Edwards

The following draft by Baird, without date, apparently was prepared for Henry's signature:

17406

We have much pleasure in sending you by mail for inspection a small collection of Lepidoptera just received from Dr. G. Lincecum, Washington Co., Texas¹⁵⁷

W. H. Edwards

Coalburgh, Kanawha Co.
West Virginia

. . . .369
12374

[Coalburgh, W. Va.]
June 5 1868

Prof. Baird

Smithsonian, Washn.

Dear Sir.

I have received from the Smithsonian a package of insects from Texas and a letter from Prof. Henry mentioning sending same.

I have your letter of 20th May, came in my absence to Cinc. Part I of butterflies is issued.¹⁵⁸ I wrote Cresson to send you a copy with my compli-

¹⁵⁵ The first signature of four pages was devoted to *Argynnis diana*.

¹⁵⁶ This is *Vanessa pluto* Heer from the Miocene beds of Croatia.

¹⁵⁷ The title "Doctor" was acquired by Gideon Lincecum (1793-1874) through his unaided study of medicine. His formal schooling was no more than five months in a backwoods Georgia school. He did not serve the usual apprenticeship with a recognized medical man but "read medicine" with no preceptor. From 1848 to 1867 he lived near Long Point, Texas. Later he migrated to Tuxpan, Vera Cruz, Mexico, where he lived the rest of his life. An autobiography of Lincecum was published in 1904 in Volume 8 of the *Mississippi Historical Society Publications*.

¹⁵⁸ This letter places the date of issue for Part I between the 1st and 5th of June 1868. The species figured are *Argynnis diana*, *cybele*, *aphrodite*, *nokomis* and *atlantis*.

ments & an other for the Smithsonian to subscribe for. The number actually cost more than the price charged, viz \$2. The coloring alone was 1.50. Science has hard times has she not? I can't find the letter from you mentioning names of one or more magazines in Europe I think to which you advised sending. Please write Cresson / about that, & he will send then as you suggest.

He has the prospectuses ready for you & probably has sent them.

There was nothing valuable in Lincecum's collection. Half was made up of our common Papilios & Danais Archippus. There are a lot of moths which I will return to you as some other collector may like them.

Yours truly

W. H. Edwards

17205

June 13, 1868

Dear Mr. Edwards

I have yours of Inst. The copy of "Butterflies" came all right for which I much obliged. The bundle for distribution¹⁵⁹ also has. We will forward duly as desired and send list hereafter. The prospectuses are all here and will be attended to.

We are arranging with Sumichrast to go to Western Mexico for a year or two: I suppose you will take a series of his butterflies.

Sincerely yours

S. F. Baird

W. H. Edwards

Coalburgh

40853

[Red July 21, 1868]

132

New York, 40 Wall St.

20 July 68

Prof. Baird

Smithsonian Ins.

Washington

Dear Sir.

I reached this city on Saturday from Kanawha, & at Cine on my way I found the box of insects, part of them from Sumichrast. I will see them duly sold & remit you proceeds. If he goes to the West Coast he might get some valuables. I will take one set, & I can dispose of probably all he will send, if sent at first to me. I usually examine the packages for Califa or U. S. insects,¹⁶⁰ which are all I care for.

¹⁵⁹ The bundle contained 10 copies of Part I to be strategically distributed in Europe. The prospectuses were more widely dispersed by Baird.

¹⁶⁰ Like many modern collectors of "North American" butterflies, Edwards was quite willing to include in his collection Mexican specimens of species that occur or stray north of the border but unwilling to build a collection of

I wish I could get in- / sects from New Mexico or Arizona. There are hundreds of undescribed butterflies I am confident in that section. If I can raise the money next year I believe I will send a collector on my own account. But you may do something for me.

My book is taking well I believe, & appears to be appreciated. Cassin thinks we will get a circulation of 500 before we get to the end of the 1st volume.

Subscribers come in from the most out of the way places, in Minnesota, Ky., Missouri etc etc. Several go to Canada.

Yours truly

W. H. Edwards

41901

[Coalburgh, W. Va.] 9 Sept. 1868

Prof Baird Smithsonian
Washington

Dear Sir

I venture to write though I doubt if you have ret'd from the North. I shall have some money for Sumichrast to send you when I hear of your return. My last letter from Bernard Ross was dated Rupert House 12 Aug 1866, & he therein says he will send me a package of insects in the first box he send to the Smithsonian, & expressed a wish for pins, etc. I sent on nets, pins, etc through you & he ought to have rec'd them in June 1867. Do you know anything of him later than the letter he wrote me. I am exceedingly anxious to get the butterflies of that region, as there should be several new & rare species from there. I would send / Parts 1 & 2 of the Butterflies to him by mail if they wd go that way. But I doubt they would. What do you think of it. Otherwise they would have to go via London, per packages.¹⁶¹

Yours truly

W. H. Edwards

Although the cover for part 2 of Butterflies of North America is dated August 1868 Edwards stated in the appendix to Volume I that it was issued in October of that year. It contained the plates and text for *Argynnis callippe*, *Argynnis hesperis*, *Colias alexandra*, *Colias chippewa* (as *helena*), *Colias behrrii*, *Colias Christina* and *Apatura alicia*.

Mexican material. It is interesting to see that Edwards, after twenty years, was still thinking of California as outside of the United States.

¹⁶¹ Rupert House had two routes of contact with the outside world at this time. Letters could be carried over the canoe route via streams and lakes to Moose Factory on James Bay and from there across the bay to Rupert House by cutter. Any bulky shipment had to go to London and then by the yearly supply ship to Hudsons Bay where the ship visited the posts to drop supplies and pick up furs.

42061

[Recd Nov 16 1868]

62

Coalburgh, West Va., 10 Nov. 68

Prof. Baird

Smithsonian

Washn

Dear Sir.

Yours of 3rd came this morning, with Texas butterflies enclosed. I keep a few and return the rest as you request. Why cannot Lincecum put up good specimens as easily as poor ones. Of a lot sent last summer (or spring) there was scarcely a decent one, because all were worn out before they were caught. Perhaps he sells the good ones and sends you the refuse.

The balce due Sumichrast is \$15.37 for 116 specimens with gold at 132½.¹⁶² I shall be in Charleston within a week & will send you draft for same. /

We never have heard from the copies of Part 1, Butterflies sent to Europe thru' you. If you see any friendly notices of them let us know.

I wish to write Bernard Ross & to send the parts as published. Had I better send them to you, to go to London. If they cannot leave London before next Spring, there will be 4 parts ready.

Is his post address as it was last year, Rupert House, care H. Bay Co., Fort William, Ottawa River?¹⁶³

I am troubled about the expense I am put to to get my drawings made and colored. Cassin charges \$30 per plate for the drawing, and 30 cents per sheet for coloring (including paper & printing). That makes an edition of 150 copies cost \$375. for those items only & nothing to say about paper, printing, electrotyping & binding. For the whole edition I get \$300. & then booksellers sell copies 10 or 20 per c off that. That is rather severe and I shall have to find other artists. Do you know any who will undertake the work & do as well at less charge to me. The drawing shd be but \$15 per plate & coloring not over 20 c.

Yours truly

W. H. Edwards

The November issue of the *Transactions of the American Entomological Society* (2: 207-210, 1868) carried Edwards article "Notes on a remarkable variety of *PAPILIO TURNUS*, and descriptions of two species of *DIURNAL LEPIDOPTERA*." The *turnus* was a female, one side of which was the dark form

¹⁶² The rate of "exchange" between the gold dollar and the "greenback" dollar, i.e. at this time one gold dollar was worth 1.32½ "greenback" dollars.

¹⁶³ A letter from Mr. Clifford P. Wilson, editor of "*The Beaver*," house organ of the Hudson's Bay Company states: "The address you have for him [Ross] at Rupert's House, refers to Fort William on the Ottawa not at the head of Lake Superior. The route would be up the Ottawa, across to the Abitibi and so down to Moose Factory and across to Rupert's House."

glaucus, the other the black and yellow form *turnus*. It was received by Edwards on the first of September 1868 "from a young friend in this neighborhood [Coalburgh, West Virginia]."

Late in 1868 (November or December) there appeared the first issue of a new journal devoted to entomology, "*The Canadian Entomologist*." At present among North American entomological journals it is second only to the *Transactions of the American Entomological Society* in longevity. On page 22 of the initial number (*Can. Ent.* 1: 22, 1868) is a contribution from W. H. Edwards "*Papilio Machaon in British America*." This was the first of over 170 papers from Edwards' pen to appear in the journal.